

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-10 PRS-01 IO-03

DPW-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /069 W
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R 260310 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3688

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11415

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 DAILY SITREP-25 JUNE 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM BIEN HOA AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0223

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 25 JUNE 1973

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN LIGHT OVER THE 72 HOURS
ENDING 0800 JUNE 25. DETAILS WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. MR3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN MORNING JUNE 25 THAT COM-
MUNISTS HAVE ESTABLISHED BARRICADE STRUCTURE AND CHECKPOINT
NORTH OF LAI KHE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13. LTG MINH WILL NOT
BLOW THE BARRICADE AWAY, BUT HE IS INSTITUTING HIS OWN
CHECKPOINT, AT WHICH EVERY VEHICLE GOING TO CHON THANH WILL
BE CAREFULLY CHECKED IN ORDER TO LIMIT TRADING WITH THE
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COMMUNISTS IN PARTS OF HIGHWAY 13 THAT THEY CONTROL.

3. ICCS V CANDEL CHIEF TOLD CONGEN JUNE 22 THAT HIS CONTINGENT HAS RECEIVED " MARCHING ORDERS" TO LEAVE BIEN HOA JULY 23. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ENTIRE CANDEL WILL LEAVE SAIGON TOGETHER JULY 30, AND WILL POSSIBLY RECEIVE A NATIONAL WELCOME IN VANCOUVER.

4. ICCS V CANDEL SOURCES TELL US THAT MOST INDIVIDUAL CANDELS WHO WERE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY ROTATION HAVE BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF JULY, BUT THOSE FEW WHO ARE LEAVING EARLY ARE BEING REPLACED, EVEN FOR SHORT REMAINING TIME. COMMENT: CANADIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO MAINTAIN UNBLEMISHED RECORD OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN IKYS, AND ALSO TO GIVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF ITS OFFICERS A TASTE OF THIS LATEST OF CANADA' S MANY PEACE- KEEPING VENTURES. END COMMENT.

5. REGION V CHIPDELS DEADLOCKED 2-2 JUNE 24 IN REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PRG FIRING ON ICCS CHOPPERS OVER HIGHWAY 13 ON JUNE 17. CANADIANS AND INDONEASIANS CLAIMED CHOPPERS WERE FIRED ON TWICE, ONCE VIC XT780500 JUST INTO PRG- CONTROLLED AREA NORTH OF LAI KHE, WHEN AK-47 BULLET WENT THROUGH FUSELAGE, AND AGAIN VIC XT770770- XT770790, IN PRG AREA 10-12 KM SOUTH OF AN LOC, WHEN MAN EMPTIED AK-47 CLIP AT OTHER CHOPPER WITHOUT HITTING IT. POLGARIANS DENIED SECOND INCIDENT COMPLETELY, AND WHILE THEY COULD HARDLY DENY THE FIRST, FROM WHICH HUNGDEL CHIEF HAD SCRAMBLED FOR COVER, THEY CLAIMED FIRING WAS BY RVNAF. MEETING AT WHICH REPORT WAS DISCUSSED PRODUCED MUCH HEATED RHETORIC AND TABLE- POUNDING. NATIONAL VIEWS SCHEDULED TO BE FORWARDED TO SAIGON TODAY.

6. DECLINE IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CANADIANS AND POLES IN BIEN HOA WAS HIGHLIGHTED DRAMATICALLY BY PUNCH- UP LATE EVENING JULY 21 IN BIEN HOA CLUB BAR, WHEN CANADIAN ENDED ARGUMENT WITH POLE BY DECKING HIM WITH ONE PUNCH. CANDEL CHIEF TOLD CONGEN THAT POLE WAS " OBNOXIOUS" AND HIS MAN WAS JUSTIFIED IN DOING WHAT HE DID, AND DESERVED COMBAT PAY FOR IT.

7. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS CANDEL SOURCES, GUNG- HO CANDEL V CHIEF COL. MORROW HAS BEEN IN TROUBLE WITH SUPERIORS AS RESULT OF INTERVIEW HE CONDUCTED WITH NVA POW WHICH WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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FILMED BY CBS AND SCREENED THROUGHOUT CANADA ON CBC. NEWS ANGLE FOR TV COVERAGE WAS THAT CANADIANS WERE SO DISGUSTED WITH ICCS DEADLOCK THAT THEY WERE UNDERTAKING UNILATERAL INVESTIGATIONS. ACCORDING TO MESSAGES FROM OTTAWA, INTERVIEW APPEARED CONTRIVED, WITH COL. MORROW APPEARING TO PROMPT THE NVA POW. MOREOVER, IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT ICCS PLENARY DEADLOCK OVER WHETHER NVA POW INTERVIEWS CAN BE FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO

TPJMC AS ICCS DOCUMENTS, SCREENING TENDED TO SUPPORT POLGARIAN POSITION THAT CANADIANS ARE DISREGARDING ICCS MACHINERY AND ACTING UNILATERALLY IN CONDUCTING SUCH INTERVIEWS.

8. COL. MORROW TOLD CONGEN HE WAS IN TROUBLE FOR A WHILE, BUT HE CLAIMED THAT CBS WAS SUPPOSED TO FILM ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH THE NVA POW, AND HAD FILMED HIS INTERVIEW WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE SAYS HE WAS SUPPORTED BY BRIGADIER MCALPINE, AND INCIDENT IS NOW CLOSED.

9. REFLECTING ON CANADIAN ICCS EXPERIENCE, CANDEL SAID CANADIANS HAD KNOWN FROM BEGINNING THAT ICCS WOULD NOT WORK. SHOULD HAVE BEEN THREE OR FIVE MEMBERS, NOT EVEN NUMBER; UNANIMITY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REQUIRED; SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REPORT TO INDEPENDENT BODY RATHER THAN TPJMC; AND ICCS SHOULD HAVE BEEN REAL PEACE- KEEPING FORCE, ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, STEP IN BETWEEN BELIGERENTS AT POINT OF CONTACT, AND OPEN CORRIDORS. CANDEL SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TAKEN A BATTALION AND OPENED NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 BETWEEN LAI KHE AND AN LOC.

10. CHIPDELS KEEP ASKING CONSULS ABOUT POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA, AND AT THE SAME TIME ONE HEARS INCREASING SPECULATION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF POLES, LEAVING INDONESIANS AND HUNGARIANS ONE- ON- ONE. ONE OF HUNGARIAN INTERPRETERS WAS BADLY SHAKEN WHEN CONSUL TRIED THIS IDEA OUT ON HIM EVENING JUNE 22.

11. MR 3 CG BG DAO DUY ANH WAS TOTALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR LASTING PEACE IN VIET- NAM IN JUNE 22 CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL. ANH RECITED FAMILIAR LITANY OF COMMUNIST ACTS INDICATING LACK OF GOOD WILL, FORESAW CONTINUED DESULTORY FIGHTING THROUGHOUT 1973, ANTICIPATED ANOTHER ALL- OUT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN 1973, AND PREDICTED THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE
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UNTIL ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER FINALLY WINS. WALKINSHAW UNQTE
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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